



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 80

MARCH 1974

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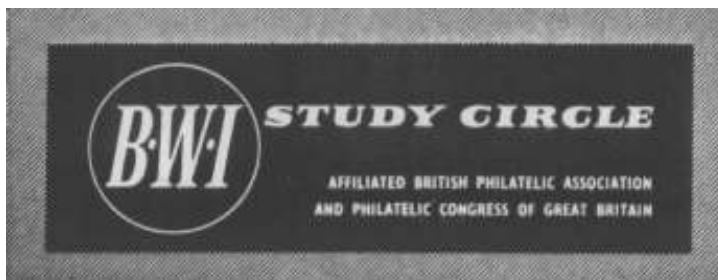
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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is £1.50 or the equivalent in local currency, due 15th February. If remitting in currency please add 40c to cover collection charges. Alternatively a draft for £1.50 DRAWN on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

PROGRAMME

1974

Saturday, April 20th, 3 p.m.
Annual General Meeting and Auction Sale

Will members please note the change of date for the A.G.M. and the addition of an Auction Sale to the programme.

Meetings to be held at the "Large Oak Room," National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

DISPLAY

Mr. E. Shields Forshaw who was to have given the Study Circle a display of British Guiana on Saturday, 29th September 1973, was unfortunately unable to do so as he had to go into hospital for an operation at short notice. Mr. W. A. Townsend, one of the vice Presidents of the Study Circle, was approached to display British Guiana in place of Mr. Shields Forshaw and although he had very little time to get his display ready, he consented to show in the circumstances. The fourteen members and one visitor who attended the Meeting were not only grateful to Mr. Townsend but were also most appreciative of being privileged to see a selection from his wonderful collection of British Guiana postal history. This collection is an amalgamation of postal history material from the collections formed by Mr. Townsend, Mr. F. G. Howe and the late Mr. P. W. Hosking. The display is summarised below and the Type numbers mentioned are as recorded in "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" by Messrs. W. A. Townsend and F. G. Howe.

The postal service started on July 1st 1796 and a letter of September 10th 1796 was shown. This was followed by first a selection of Demerara items and then a Ship Letter mark of November 24th 1879 together with a photograph of an earlier type (from the Records Office) of which no examples have been recorded. Type 2 was shown with the spelling Demerary of November 1813 (unique). Type 5 of July 12th 1811 followed and is rare. Type 6 is the Fleuron mark and was shown for 1815. The smaller fleuron

followed (Type 7) 10th November 1825 and December 1835. An interesting Soldier's letter of 3rd July 1846 to India was routed via London. Type 8 was shown for August 5th 1840 and August 19th 1844. Type 9 followed in red October 30th 1845. Early examples are in red and are scarcer than black which followed. Examples shown were December 19th 1846, August 3rd 1847 and June 9th 1855.

Berbice followed with the unique Ship Letter mark December 6th 1815. It was used in error as a despatching mark. There was a series of the so-called Dutch types. Type 3 November 19th 1834, June 29th 1837. Type 4 March 1st 1838, January 22nd 1840. Type 5 October 4th 1840, July 30th 1841. Type I September 25th 1823 and the earliest recorded date March 4th 1813. The Type 10 is a very interesting mark. "1/2" in black is handstruck and two examples were dated November 2nd 1846 and January 17th 1849. A letter from Berbice showed the sender had written horizontally, vertically and diagonally, three pages of writing, on one sheet to save postage! Type 6 showed dates of January 20th 1842 and April 17th 1850. Type 7 followed with dated examples of November 22nd 1853 and April 8th 1857.

The Crowned Circle mark was shown on a stamp of the 1866 issue. One other example is recorded.

Code mark cancellations were dealt with in detail and included L and W in manuscript, early type with serifs to the letters, examples of 36 different codes and a number of proving covers. The exact location of each post office is not certain as the head post office and records have been destroyed by fire but the proving covers enable one to place them in most cases.

British stamps were sent to the Colony in 1858 and cancellers A03 for Georgetown and A04 for New Amsterdam. In addition to a cover bearing one 6d. stamp there was a cover bearing six 1d. stamps.

British Guiana stamps cancelled by the French Anchor caused interest and were only used when French mail boats were diverted off the normal route from Europe to South America and called at British Guiana.

PD and PP marks were shown on stamps as were the G.B./40c. These should all have been impressed on the cover but in error were used to cancel stamps.

The subject of Accountancy marks was dealt with in detail. 1d. A03 of two types was shown (one on cover) - a duplex mark. 1d. A03 similarly was shown in two types (both on cover) - a duplex mark. The 4d. mark is exceptional in that it is a triplex mark probably never used in the British Commonwealth in any other Colony. It reads PA41D surmounted by a date stamp and the A03 mark. The 5d. was shown on cover. The sterling figures show the amount due from the British Guiana Post Office to the Great Britain Postal Authorities for conveying a letter overseas and delivering it to the addressee. A cover from Great Britain to British Guiana was also shown bearing six 1d. British stamps. A crayon mark 1d. showed that British Guiana received 1d. for delivering the letter.

Several pages were devoted to circular date stamps used at the turn of the century and 82 different offices were included, although official records show only 60 open at the time.

Three examples of the Amacura date stamp were shown, all being fakes. The same date 21 AU 1896 was on each and the stamps so cancelled were issued in 1905!

A piece of the album page was displayed on which a schoolboy named Vaughan mounted the famous lc black on magenta 1856 issue. He sold it to a dealer for 6/- in order to buy some more attractive pictorial issues. Forty years later he wrote on the space "Once my stamp. Sold in Paris 6 April 25 for F670,500. I sold it for 6/- 40 years ago."

On 23rd February 1945 at midday the Head Post Office was destroyed by fire together with all the equipment and stamps. An example was shown cancelled before the fire. A temporary office was set up and stamps were cancelled with a single circular mark. The date appears in the centre and the letters B.C. at the bottom.

Experimental flights occurred in 1930 and 1931 and covers were shown from British Guiana to French Guiana (31.12.30) 106 carried, British Guiana to Peru (6.2.31) 28 carried, British Guiana to Jamaica (19.12.30), British Guiana to Brazil (12.3.30) 88 carried.

Army post offices were set up during the Great War when the U.S.A. set up bases. Number 857 of two types were shown and 807. British troops were sent to the Colony in 1953 when the Constitution was suspended. Examples of Army post office numbers 616, 955 and 966 were shown.

Communications in the Colony are mainly by water as there is only one railway line (along the coast) and there are few roads. 26 T.P.O.s and T.P.A.s exist or have existed and 21 of these were shown. Attention was drawn to North West Steamer T.P.O. only in use for a short time around 1898. North West District Mobile Agency which covers four rivers - one each week resulting in delivery of letters every fourth week! Mail Boat cancellations used on the Upper Demerara River T.P.A. were also shown.

Date stamps were discussed in general and their interest emphasised. An example shown was Baramanni 1893-1929. This village was situated in an unhealthy location until October 1907 when it was moved up river to Barama Mouth - a far healthier site. After 6 months the populace yearned for their old village and moved back. The same date stamp was used throughout. Dated examples were shown for 1899 and 1903 (used at Baramanni). One dated example, 15.4.1908, used at Barama Mouth and later examples up to 1914 used at Baramanni.

Cancellations of which to beware: -

T.L.B. Clerk around 1931-1934, Wireless Georgetown, Wireless Mabaruma, Wireless Mackenzie, Wireless Garraway Stream, Telegraph N.A., Telegraphs and Central Telegraph. None of these is for postal use. There was also the magnificent date stamp used during a philatelic exhibition on 21st Oct. 1911. It shows a Union Jack on each side of a circular date stamp and surmounted by a three masted ship.

Some village date stamps are exceedingly rare and the following were shown as a selection from the nine volume collection:-

Wireless Apoteri - unique

Marudi Mountains - unique

Five Star - rare

Mount Everai'd - very rare

Potts Fall - unique Puruni - rare

Mazaruni - scarce

Sheet Anchor - rare

Cotton Tree (squared circle) - very scarce

Cotton Tree (double ring) - rare
Rampore - rare
Philadelphia - extremely rare (one on cover).

During the display Mr. Townsend commented extensively and in a most interesting manner on the sheets as they were passed round and answered a number of questions.

At the end of the display Mr. L. E. Britnor thanked Mr. Townsend for showing a part of his magnificent collection and his sentiments were received with universal acclaim.

Finally, the Meeting requested that the Hon. Secretary should write to Mr. Shields Forshaw to wish him a speedy recovery on behalf of the Study Circle.

Ten members attended the Meeting of the Study Circle held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 7th November 1973 when the accent was on Dominica, St. Christopher and St. Kitts-Nevis. A summary of the displays now follows:-

Mr. L. E. Britnor. Five entires between 1790-97 with the straight line ST. KITTS, each strike differing from the others in some way; also examples of the two line ST. KITTS with date below during the period 1799 and 1803. These were followed by entires with the large, medium and small fleurons.

Mr. Britnor ended his display with an entire from Dominica dated 23rd April 1778 carried by the Grenville Packet which was involved with three American privateers resulting in the Mails having to be sunk.

Mr. F. D. Fitzgerald. Displayed St. Christopher commencing with the 4d and 6d Great Britain cancelled at Basse-Terre with the obliterators A 12; then the 1870 set used with shades of most values followed by the 1875-76 set mint and used with shades. All values of the 1882-90 set were shown mint with shades in many cases and also a used selection from the same set.

Mr. Fitzgerald then displayed a number of examples of this Colony's provisionals followed by mint and used Fiscals authorised for postal use in 1885. Finally, he showed examples of the 1884-86 1d of Antigua cancelled A 12 at Basse-Terre.

Mr. C. A. Freeland. Commenced with a mint selection of the first two issues of Dominica including two blocks of four of the 1d lilac perforation 14 with comb perforation and line perforation respectively. Again the first two issues, but this time used and a selection of surcharges and bisects on and off piece. He then followed with a Boston Gang bogus essay in brown of the first St. Lucia type and concluded Dominica by showing specimen stamps of the 1923-27 set.

Mr. Freeland then turned to St. Kitts-Nevis and passed round a page of specimen stamps comprising the 1921-29 set including a double overprint in black of the word SPECIMEN on the 2/value followed by the Tercentenary set overprinted SPECIMEN in red.

Mr. S. Goldblatt. Began with Dominica stamps with manuscript cancels "Portsmouth" and "Wesley": an example of the Crowned Circle Paid At Dominica strike; and a Great Britain 6d lilac on piece cancelled A07. Then a page of the 1/-

magenta surcharged One Penny (type 6) and a selection of the postal fiscal 1d and 6d values overprinted with the word REVENUE.

He then showed Dominica and Leeward Islands stamps with various 'village' marks; the first and second issues of St. Christopher with some shades; examples of the 1884-86 Antigua 1d cancelled A12 at Basse-Terre; Leeward Islands stamps used in St. Christopher with code letter cancels CA, DB, AN, OR and SP and also the later circular date stamp type.

Finally a selection of the King George V pictorial issues of St. Kitts-Nevis with various village circular date stamps.

Mr. J. C. Loach. Displayed an entire with a straight line S:K.ITTs which arrived in London on the 16th January 1797, this strike being similar to one shown by Mr. L. E. Britnor; also an entire of August 1803 showing a two line ST. KITTS with date beneath; and an example of a medium fleuron on a further entire.

Mr. Loach followed with five bogus essays by the Boston Gang in indigo, dark brown black, grey blue, black and olive brown. He also passed round a page of the first one penny value with shades; a cover to London with a pair of the first sixpence posted on the 28th July 1877; a selection of the 1875-6 1d and 6d values with some shades; and finally a showing of the whole of the 1882-90 set used with shades of most values.

Mr. M. Sheppard. Commenced his exhibit with a copy of the London Gazette dated 17th November 1687 slating an intention to open a Post Office in Barbados and in Antigua.

He also showed a wrapper with handstruck REGISTERED in red - being the second of the registration marks sent to Barbados and despatched from G.P.O. London on the 22nd July 1873. Then followed a postal stationery registered envelope with an embossed 1d and three Queen Victoria 4d deep brown stamps each surcharged "½d" and also a 3d reddish purple making 5d in all comprising 2d registration fee plus 3d letter rate to the U.S.A.

Finally an Air Cover of the 21st September 1939 with 1/4d postage to New York showing a Censor mark on the reverse OPENED BY CENSOR handstamped in black.

Mr. S. Sugarman. Exhibited Dominica commencing with the 1870 bogus essays in claret, green, violet and ochre: also an 1867 entire to Scotland marked 1/- manuscript rate with redirection from St. Andrews to Edinburgh with extra penny paid and an 1883 cover to London bearing a pair and two singles SG.5 1d lilac and a block of four bisected and surcharged with HALF (type 5), the PENNY 6d postage paid comprising 2d registration fee plus 4d letter rate.

Then followed a number of die proofs of the design for the 1903 set including a master die proof of the frame and vignette with uncleared surrounds and value endorsed 19 FEB 03 AFTER HARDENING; 1903 die proofs of the vignette with uncleared surrounds endorsed BEFORE HARDENING and AFTER HARDENING respectively: original die proofs of the frame with DOMINICA and the Two shillings and six pence value but without vignette endorsed 3 JUN 03 BEFORE HARDENING and 4 JUN 03 AFTER HARDENING: also similar die proofs in respect of the Five Shillings endorsed 10 MAR 03 BEFORE HARDENING and 11 MAR 03 AFTER HARDENING. Original die proofs of the King George V Head against a lined background endorsed BEFORE HARDENING and AFTER HARDENING and dated 7 MAR 12 and 28 NOV 12 respectively were also shown.

Mr. Sugarman ended his display with mint blocks of four of the 1/- to £1 values from the 1923 set.

Altogether some very interesting displays were given at this Meeting resulting in considerable discussion and exchange of views and knowledge.

BAHAMAS

Quite recently the following lot description appeared in a dealer's list -
"**Bahamas 1919 War Tax ½d. and 1d. IMPERF** in issued colours. Only one block of six of each of these was printed originally. **Rare.**"

As these stamps are completely unknown to the writer it would be very much appreciated if anyone who is able to give any further information would be good enough to write to the Editor.

J. M. Bailey

BARBADOS

SOME 19th CENTURY BARBADOS NEWSPAPERS

Several newspapers were printed and published in the last century and they are now difficult to find in readable condition. Most of the remaining ones reside in the archives or in the museum on the island; however one can occasionally come across the odd copy in this country.

Last week I spent a couple of nights at my brother's Somerset arm; he is a keen rider and went off with the local hunt on the Tuesday, leaving me to explore the neighbouring town where I hoped to find something of a philatelic nature and one antique shop advised me to inspect a certain second hand bookshop. After a late lunch I discovered the little shop and browsed through the shelves, buying two small travel books. Before leaving I mentioned my interest in West Indian material and the bookseller noted this and then said he thought his wife had such an old newspaper in the attic and he would like to show it to me if it could be found.

Next morning I called in again and, much to my delight, he showed me "The Barbados Mercury AND Bridge-town Gazette" of Saturday, Jan. 23 1823. Six dollars per annum - payable in advance. The price was very fair as it was a bit tatty and stained and I bought it with alacrity.

I also possess a large piece showing Barbados Rep. and half of the large crown, bearing the ½d bisect and dated Jan. 29 1869. Fortunately during my visit to Barbados I was shown many copies of this paper in the archives and soon realised that the full title was "The Barbados Agricultural Reporter." Like the Gazette it was printed on 4 pages but the pages of the Reporter are larger.

Finally I was very lucky to obtain at auction a fine stamped copy of "The West Indian" New Series Barbados, Friday, March 20, 1874, Vol. 27, comparable in size to the Reporter. Printed and Published every Tuesday and Friday Afternoon at No. 14 Broad Street, Barbados. Terms of Subscription 5 Dollars per annum, subject to a discount of 20 % if paid in advance!

Frank Deakin

BARBADOS QUERIES

YOUR POSTMAN'S ROUTE IS
CHRIST CHURCH NO. 18

Please include it as part of your
Address, and ask your correspondents
to do so.

Tony Shepherd recently sent me two Barbados covers with a request for information, but not having seen their like before I was not able to oblige.

On the front of the first cover dated March 1937, in blue, is the hand struck stamp, "YOUR POSTMAN'S ROUTE TS CHRISTCHURCH No. 18. Please include it as part of your Address and ask your correspondents to do so." If, as I suspect, each parish had a handstamp for every postman's route, this would add up to a considerable number of stamps. It seems unusual that examples of these strikes are not more common. Could it be that they were only in use for a very short time and also that people did not bother to collect them?

The second cover dated April 1948 is a telegram envelope addressed to Mascot, St. Lawrence, Christ Church, bearing a Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. handstamp and franked with a 3d. and a ½d. stamp cancelled with a BARBADOS R.L.O. c.d.s. Would the stamps on the envelope pay the delivery charge from the receiving office and if the telegram was an inland one, would the message have been paid for by means of stamps fixed to the telegram form ?

Tony Shepherd and Michael Sheppard

BRITISH GUIANA

A TRIAL OVERPRINT

An interesting recent find will add still further confusion to the 'OFFICIAL' stamps of this colony! The find consists of imperforate Waterlow 1 cent black stamps overprinted OFFICIAL in a type-setting different from those previously recorded. The overprint is only 12½mm. in width and the letters are 2¾mm. high: it occurs in both black and red.

The overprint is unlikely to be bogus, as the stamps are perfectly genuine: these are on thinnish paper, closer spaced value, fourth setting, so that they date appropriately from about 1874, even before one examines the overprint. Moreover an imperforate pair is included, so as to authenticate the plate-proof status.

In point of fact the overprint, whether in red or black, is so obscured by the background as to be almost unreadable. Almost certainly this was a trial setting which was rejected in favour of the bolder, wider and more legible issued overprint.

This prompts the reflection that there is a great deal of information still to be collated and tabulated about the Waterlow proofs. A good many still exist, often as single imperforate stamps in the issued colours and settings: and sometimes they appear to be quite genuinely used. When - and how - and why - did they come on the market?

Continued on page 10

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1973

INCOME

1972		1973
214.75	Advertisers	218.70
23.55	Bulletins (sale of back issues)	12.11
4.50	'CORDEX' Binders	8.70
5.36	Donations	2.75
2.00	Opinion Fees	3.10
396.70	Subscriptions	400.45
25.50	Subscriptions paid in advance	46.50
1.00	Sundry receipts	7.60
309.38	Cash at Bank	206.74
<hr/>		
982.74		<hr/>
		906.65

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

		£
19.27	Sale of Paper No.4	
-----	Sales of 'The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies'	*517.34
170.30	Cash at Bank as at 31.12.70	189.57
<hr/>		
£189.57		<hr/>
		£706.91

I have examined the above Statement of Accounts and certify it to be correct and in accordance with the Books and Vouchers produced to me.

January 17th, 1974

Signed A J. BRANSTON,
Hon. Auditor

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1973

EXPENDITURE

1972		1973
6.00	Advertising	6.00
9.00	Bank Charges	7.68
12.71	Books and Periodicals	12.51
-----	'CORDEX' Binders	25.00
18.62	Entertainment, hire of Meeting Room, etc.	16.33
10.00	Insurance	10.00
96.56	Postage	86.42
25.00	Presentation to Philip Saunders	-----
521.24	Printing and blocks	469.28
42.62	Stationery	17.29
6.90	Subscriptions	3.75
3.00	Subscriptions (members refunded)	4.00
9.92	Sundries	2.65
14.13	Telephone	12.33
206.74	Cash at Bank	233.41
<u>982.74</u>		<u>906.65</u>

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

-----	Printing	6.40
-----	Refund Trade Discount	3.00
189.57	Cash at Bank	697.51
<u>£189.57</u>		<u>£706.91</u>

** This amount will be entirely absorbed in the account to be rendered by the printer in 1974.*

PHILIP T. SAUNDERS,
Hon. Treasurer.

My impression is that such stamps are frequently regarded with suspicion or are brushed aside as reprints: but as each lithographic setting has its own characteristics which can never be reproduced once the stone is cleaned, the inaccuracy of such a classification can usually be demonstrated with ease." *Simon Goldblatt*

BRITISH HONDURAS

ADDITIONS TO VILLAGE POSTMARKS

It is a little disappointing to me that no pundit has yet come forward to amend and supplement my very tentative classification for this Colony (see Bulletins 77, 78). At any rate here are some additions of my own:--

- | | | | |
|---------|---|-------------|--|
| Type 1 | (Stann Creek) | 24.9.14 | (date inverted) |
| Type 2 | (Cay Caulker) (no final 'e' in this instrument) | in violet | |
| | | 22.6.20 | |
| | (Monkey River) | 1900 | |
| Type 3 | Cousejo is a mis-print for Consejo | | |
| | (Stann Creek) | 1912 | |
| Type 4 | Barracks | c1930 | magenta |
| | Gales Point | c1912 | violet |
| | (Guinea Grass) | c1920 | carmine |
| | Lowry's Bight | 1.10.12 | violet |
| | Progress | c1910 | violet |
| | Radio Station | c1930 | black |
| | Spanish Lockout | c1920 | black |
| Add | | | |
| Type 4a | Very large double ring | 36/24mm. | |
| | Double Head Cabbage | c1930 | black |
| Type 5 | Caledonia | c1930 | violet |
| | (Guinea Grass) | 1928 | |
| Type 7 | This should have been given as | 26mm. | It was also used for |
| | Benque Viejo | Orange Walk | |
| | Corozal | San Estevan | |
| | El Cayo | | |
| | and no doubt other villages also. | | |
| Type 9 | Ag. Station P.O. | San Pedro | |
| | Baking Pot | Seine Bight | |
| | Caledonia | | |
| | The modern double ring canceller is used for Gracie Rock, Mascall, Mullins River, and one office which I have yet to see noticed - "18¼ MLS S/C VALLEY - yet another of the Stann Creek Valley staging posts. | | |
| | Two quite different new types of T.R.D. need to be mentioned: | | |
| Type 10 | Box-type CALEDONIA | c1912 | Letters 4mm. other measurements not available. |
| Type 11 | Very large double ring | 42/30mm. | |
| | Crooked Tree | | |

Additional Notes

I have found no previous reference to LOWRY'S BIGHT. The lettering is clearly legible, but slightly off-centre to the right, and conceivably (though improbably) there are other letters to the name.

"PROGRESS" is very much off-centre to the left, and there are indications that other letters follow. Can somebody suggest a continuation? I cannot say whether Belize appears anywhere on the RADIO STATION strike, which is incomplete.

I have a strike of STANN CREEK VALLEY (Type 9) which is dated 1940, on a front which also bears the registration marking "20 MILES STANN CREEK." Was this valley post office static or transitory in its situation? I also have three examples of modern British stamps (S.G. 515) on piece, cancelled, respectively, in the modern double ring type BARRANCO (1957), SARTENEJA, and SAN PEDRO A.C. Do these relate to British military presence in Honduras?

In these and future annotations, I propose to cite dates in full where these are available and seem to have possible significance.

Simon Goldblatt

GRENADA

THE SMALL STRAIGHT LINE GRENADA HANDSTAMP WITH TWO DIGIT YEAR

Some doubt as to the actual existence of the small straight line Grenada handstamp with two digit year (Charlton Type A4) has recently surfaced. The problem is in the use of the word small in Charlton's description of Type A4 and his illustration of Type A4, which is much smaller than his illustration of Type A3. On the other hand, there is no doubt that a strike exists with GRENADA in serified capitals in a straight line with the second line containing month, day and two digit year. This latter strike is simply Type A3 with slugs for the two digit year added after the month and day. In his description of Type A4 it is stated "(Type A4) is similar but smaller (than Type A3) . . ." He gives the years 1812 to 1820 as the period of use for Type A4.

Although Charlton does not give measurements for his Type A3 or A4 handstamps (his illustrations are generally slightly larger than the actual handstamps) we will use his illustrations as the best proxy available to indicate the magnitude of difference in size between Types A3 and A4. The illustration of Type A3 has the word GRENADA 36mm. long and the letters 6mm. high (the actual Type A3 measures 35mm. long and 53mm. high with a 37mm. outer rim sometimes partially or fully visible). Type A4 has Grenada 26mm. long and 4mm. high. In his illustration of Type A4 the word GRENADA is 10mm. shorter in length and 2mm. shorter in height than Type A3, or approximately two-thirds the size of Type A3.

Our analysis starts with a cover in the collection of R. W. Grimble. This cover has a clear strike of Type A3 with the second line showing a full date. The date of this cover is 12APR1800 - with the day preceding the month, the month, a four digit year and no space between the day, month and year. This is the earliest recorded date for Type A3 and in all likelihood depicts the originally intended method of applying the date. This cover tells us that the Type A3 handstamp was manufactured to accommodate up to a four digit year. The next recorded example of Type A3 has just the month and day (DEC 8), no year, but from the letter and a transit mark the year 1806 is known.

From DEC 8 (1806) to AUG 10 (1813) all recorded examples of Type A3 have only a month and day on the second line, no year.

In the Robson Lowe auction of 3 October, 1956, lot 113 was a Type A3 with a two digit year following the month and day. The date of this Type A3 handstamp is JUN30 14 and the Type A3 size is clearly indicated by an illustration of this strike. This Type A3 cover dated JUN30 14 shows the use of the two digit year in the Type A3 cancel.

From Charlton's handbook
Note size difference between A3 and A4

GRENADA
NOV 24

A 3

GRENADA
JUN20 14

A 4

From cover in Jones collection

GRENADA
JUN20 14

Actual size of A3

From Trimble collection



The item that prompted this article is a cover in the collection of Dr. Russell Jones. The strike Charlton used for illustrating his Type A4 handstamp had a date of JUN20 14. The cover in the Jones collection is a Type A3 and dated JUN20 14 also.

It seems highly unlikely that two types of Grenada handstamps would be used on the same day in such an early year as 1814 when the volume of mail from Grenada was small. Also, to the author's knowledge, there are no reported strikes of a **small** straight line Grenada handstamp with two digit year.

Finally, in **Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire, 1680-1900** by Robson Lowe, second edition 1938-39, page 160, is a reduced illustration of a straight-line Grenada with a date on the second line of JUN20 14, Robson Lowe type (PF). We note that this reduced illustration in Robson Lowe's book has similar measurements (and the same date) as the illustration of Type A4 Charlton uses in his handbook. Although we have no proof, it is certainly possible that the cover in Dr. Jones' collection was used in Robson Lowe's book as a reduced illustration of type (PF), and Charlton used this reduced illustration as a basis for his statement that Type A4 was similar, but smaller than Type A3.

The available evidence indicates that Charlton's Type A4 does not exist. Instead, Type A3 at certain times had either a four digit or two digit year added to the second line of the handstamp. Any members who possess a Type A3 with either a two digit or four digit year or have evidence that Type A4 in fact exists are requested to pass this information on to the Editor so the other members can be informed. Until new evidence comes to light, we feel that Type A4 should be considered not to exist.

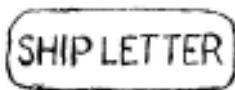
Dr. Russell Jones and W. Danforth Walker

JAMAICA

THE TWO LINE "JAMAICA TRANSIT" MARK

In the December, 1973 Bulletin Mr. Goldblatt enquires about dates of usage. I find that I have a cover from Inagua to Turks Island dated 1874 with this mark:- JAMAICA
TRANSIT

The transit marks on the cover are, Kingston OC 29 74 Jamaica, St. Thomas NO 16 74 and Turks Islands DE 10 1874. If this is the Transit Mark in question it would predate Foster's records by several years.



The cover also bears a Ship Letter mark as shown and I should be interested to know whether any member could say where this was applied.

John J. Challis

LEEWARD ISLANDS

I have been able to come up with a few answers in reply to William G. Comell's request, in the December Bulletin, for information concerning quantities of Antigua and Leeward Islands stamps.

In Adrian Hopkins' little handbook (1949 edition) the following details are given:-

S.G. 1-8 No quantity stated (only numbers of remainders offered to the public in August, 1903).

S.G.9-16	9	½d.	15,600	13.	6d.	3,480
	10.	1d.	15,600	14.	7d.	3,480
	11.	2½d.	15,600	15.	1/-	1,800
	12.	4d.	6,000	16.	5/-	900

Full details of stamps of this issue sold to the public on island, and subsequent remainders offered for sale are also given.

S.G. 17-19	17.	1d. on 4d.	37,200
	18.	1d. on 6d.	37,200
	19.	1d. on 7d.	17,700

An interesting note shows that these were probably still in use at least three years after issue.

William ff D. Hall

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

I refer to Mr. S. Goldblatt's query in Bulletin No. 75, page 96 and his own answer to the query on page 63 of Bulletin No. 78.

It is a pity that he has not been able to indicate any date and I assume that this is because the item is either on piece or just a loose stamp, in any event with no date shown.

S.G.17 was issued in 1907 as a result of the Crown Agents for the Colonies adopting a colour scheme in that year under which there was standardisation of the colours used for different denominations of Colonial stamps. This colour scheme carried out the recommendation of the Universal Postal Union that stamps of the denominations of 3d., 1d. and 2½d. or their equivalent (being the international rates on printed matter, postcards and letters respectively) should be printed in green, red and blue respectively. Assuming that the stamp was used on a letter to the U.S.A. the letter rate from St. Kitts-Nevis to the U.S.A. would be 2½d. per ounce from 1907 until the 1st April, 1915 when the rate was reduced to 1d. not exceeding one ounce and 1d. for each additional ounce and fraction of an ounce.

Although I have never seen the strike "COLLECT POSTAGE," it is in my opinion almost certainly an American strike.

E. V. Toeg

ST. LUCIA

ST. LUCIA CODE DATE STAMPS

Your report of the Study Circle meeting at Congress and Mr. Townsend's display of these marks aroused my interest again.

I made a small study of these marks many years ago and at that time could not understand why CHOISEUL, the largest community in the island apart from Castries, and a village with considerable postal business did not figure in the then listing.

I wish to suggest that CHOISEUL should be included and does possess a code date stamp in this series, same diameter and size as "D, L, M, S and VF" but code "C". This mark is quite distinctive and obvious on entire compared to the G.P.O. "St. Lucia/c" which is much smaller. The difference would be quite obvious to Post Office staff, at the material time, the only people who were really concerned.

During my brief study of these marks I did not have access to very much material, but I was struck by the relative rarity of the occurrence of this date stamp when one considers the volume of Choiseul's postal business as compared with the other villages.

With the present interest in cancellations and postal history I had hoped that someone with more material at their disposal would have come up with these observations.

Perhaps those interested in this subject would check their "St. Lucia/C" covers and report their discoveries.

H. Vivian Brown

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

"OLD SHIPS" ISSUE

In August last year the Turks and Caicos Islands issued a set of six stamps depicting famous old ships. Research on the design for these stamps was carried out by the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich; but what of the story of these ships? Do they have any connection with the Colony, or is this just another attempt to cash in on a popular theme and make money from collectors? I thought it might be of interest to take a look at these ships and see their association with the Turks and Caicos Islands.

To start the series there is a 'Bermuda Sloop' depicted on the 2c. stamp. The vessel shown is not in itself a specific boat, but is characteristic of the many of this type that played so large a role in the history and development of the Islands.

H.M.S. ENDYMION (10c.) was a 44 gun frigate built in 1779, and who three years later took part in the Navy's victory over the French in the Battle of the Saintes off Dominica. The final chapter in the story of this ship began on 20th January, 1789 when Captain Daniel Woodruff took command; the story ending some eighteen months later on 28th August, 1790 when the ship drove ashore on a group of rocks about 4½ miles SSW of Sand Cay, the most southerly Island in the Turks Group. The spot is known even now as Endymion Rock and so marked on the charts of the area.

The R.M.S. MEDINA (15c.) was a paddle wheel steam packet built at Cowes in the Isle of Wight for the Royal Mail Company's new services to the West Indies. On only her second voyage she arrived off Turks Islands at midnight on 11th May, 1842, and as the night was calm Captain C. F. Burney decided to enter the anchorage so that the transfer of mails and passengers for the Packets sailing the subsidiary routes could take place as early as possible. In those days compasses were often inaccurate because of the large amount of metal recently introduced into the ships with the advent of steam, and the channel was poorly lit. The inevitable happened, and about 1 a.m. the Medina struck a reef. All the passengers and crew, some 170 persons, were saved as was the mail, but the ship remained fast and became a total loss. Soon after this event the Turks Islands were no longer featured as the Northern transfer point on the Royal Mail Company's routes, such operations being carried out at St. Thomas.

In 1855 a Brig., H.M.S. Daring visited the Islands. She had been built in 1844 and was at the time of her visit to Turks commanded by Commander J. Napier, R.N. This ship is shown on the 20c. stamp.

H.M.S. BLANCHE (5c.) shows the change in the Royal Navy from sail to steam, in fact this ship was able to use both methods of propulsion. The ship was officially rated as a sloop and was built in 1867 - the same year as the first Turks Islands' stamps, and was the eighth ship to bear this name in the Navy List. (There have since been four more). In addition to the sails she had an engine capable of producing some 2,158 shaft HP. At the time of her visit to the Islands in 1874 she was commanded by Captain C. H. Simpson and was then on her way to become part of the Navy's Australian Squadron.

That leaves the 8c. stamp: but with one of the ships bearing the name "Grand Turk" what further reason can be needed to feature this stamp in a series such as this.

Mike Wilson

WEST INDIES

A LETTER TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE "MERCURY"

Following the publication of the History of The Sailing Packets to the West Indies, it may be of interest to know a little more about voyages to the West Indies during the Napoleonic wars.

I therefore set out the full text of a letter hand-delivered in Liverpool to Capt. Thomas Walters. Those who are familiar with Thomas Walters as a merchant in Tortola may be surprised to learn of his earlier status as commander of a sailing ship. Members will judge for themselves whether the ship Mercury, the subject of the letter, has any connection with the ship that bore that name as a sailing Packet until 1781.

"Capt. Thomas Walters Liverpool 25th February 1801

Sir

The Ship Mercury whereof you are Commander, being now cleared out, you are to embrace the very first Wind that will permit her getting in Safety from this Port, and proceed immediately to Cork, with an Intent of joining the West India Convoy, if there on arrival, but should it unfortunately have sailed, prior to that taking place, you are to stay in said Harbour for my future Directions, however, as I am extremely anxious, that the Mercury should be in Time for the present Convoy, it strictly behoves you to exert every probable Endeavour for making a quick passage to Cork, This Point being of the **most essential Consequences to me**, am willing to flatter myself, that I may with perfect Confidence, rely on your strictest Mention to its being secured so well as on all Occasions, making my Interest your principal Object, should you be so lucky as to join the Convoy, either in, or off the Harbour of Cove, you are to give me most particular Intelligence thereof, for my better Guidance relative Insurance, desirous as I am that the Mercury should have the Advantage of this Convoy, yet you are not to run any imprudent Risque for this Purpose, should the Fleet have sailed and supposed not to be far distant, as in such case were a Capture to take place, very disagreeable Consequences, would certainly ensue from an Event so unfortunate, that will not entertain the least Doubt of your guarding against the same.

On your arrival at Tortola consult Richard Hetherington Esq. on each Affair relative the Mercury, acting conformable to his wishes, unless they have a Tendency to my real Disadvantage, and am induced to think that there is not the least Doubt of the Mercury getting compleatly loaded in sufficient Time to sail with the first Convoy, should it stay the usual Period say about the middle of May next, this Point is so essentially to my Advantage, as to require that the most spirited Exertions be made for its certain Success, the Planters will be exceedingly anxious to get their Produce to so early a Market as they possibly can, and the Crop promising to be very large may probably afford you, an opportunity for obtaining better Freights than have been usually given. The heavy expence of Drogherage Vea (sic) renders this highly requisite and must be attempted so far as Prudence will permit, unless you find that other Captains act in a different Manner, by which you are in some Degree to be guided, taking care to have the Mercury fully loaded not suffering the least Room to be lost, a strict Attention thereto so well as the **utmost Frugality** in each Species of your Disbursements must be **punctually observed** also not to take on board the Mercury any Produce but what

you are certain is to my Address, except the Crops should be so deficient, as to render your acting otherwise absolutely requisite, which I by no means think will prove so but entirely the reverse, not failing to early and fully advising me by different Conveyances, of each Occurrence worthy of Notice during the Voyage, furnishing by return of the Pilot, a List of each Person on board the Vessell, also taking care to give me the earliest Information, should any of them Die, run away, or be impressed so well as hoisting the usual Signal when off at the Buoys or coming up the River . . . You will consult William Ashton Esq. also Abraham Chalwill Hill Esq. relative the Mercury's quick Dispatch at same time not failing to pay a respectfull Attention to my worthy friend Richard Hetherington Esq. should the Danish Islands be captured, it is very probable that Mr. Ashton and others of my Correspondents may think it really prudent that the Mercury should load at St. Croix, should it prove so have only to say that you are to act therein as may appear the most conducive of my Interest after mature Reflection and consulting with my Friends as above mentioned, the Vessell hath Permission for proceeding to all or any of those Islands if in possession of the British Forces, I do not enlarge on this Affair, the same entirely depending on local Circumstances at Tortola Vea. relative which no proper judgment can be formed except by those who are on the Spott as such the going there or not must be left to them and your prudent Determination, whereon have full Confidence.

Herewith are furnished Invoice and Bill of lading for Bricks Coals Lime and Wood Hoops shipped on board the Mercury to your Address their Amount £1287-16-8½ which you are to dispose of either at St. Croix or Tortola, on the best Terms that Circumstances will admit of and so much for Immediate Payment as is by any means possible, but if you are under the absolute Necessity of selling on Credit, let the same be done to no Person whatever, unless of undoubted Solidity, but as I really expect that your Stay at the place of loading will be very short indeed, so as not to allow you sufficient time for the Disposal of said Articles in such case it will be most prudent to place what may remain of them under the "care of Abraham Chalwill Hill Esq. if at Tortola or William Ashton Esq. if at St. Croix, for any Deficiency in the Mercury's Disbursements that may arise from proceeds of the Goods now [shipped, you will draw on me for the same, at so extended a Sight, as is at that Period usual at the Island you take in her Loading, also Certificates must be furnished to me from where the Coals and Butter are landed, so that the Bonds given for them may be cancelled . . . The 3 Hams sent on board the Mercury are intended for the Lady of Richard Hetherington Esq. as such have to request your particular care of them, believing that with sincere wishes for your Health so well as a pleasant Voyage I always am most respectfully

Sir

Your Friend and obedient Servant

John Chorley,

of the Ship Mercury

Simon Goldblatt

ULTRAMAR OVERPRINTS

Reference to the note in the December Bulletin (page 83), in 1947 the Lisbon dealer, A. Molder, wrote to me "The ULTRAMAR overprint, usually a lilac handstamp, was applied on stamps of the Postal Congress and other similar occasions

as gift offered collections, when same were sent to Portuguese Colonial High Officials. This operation was done in the Lisbon Mint in order to avoid stealing of these stamps."

My experience leads me to believe that the same procedure was adopted for stamps distributed as specimens by the International Bureau of the U.P.U., which were received at Lisbon for the postal authorities of the Portuguese Colonies, whether or not they had previously been overprinted "Specimen."

It was not uncommon for authorities receiving these specimens to apply their own handstamps - for instance "MUESTRA" in Mexico. Another example is a "COLONIAS" handstamp on early King George V specimen stamps. This may have been applied in Madrid before the stamps were forwarded to the Spanish Colonies, but I have been unable to find any supporting evidence.

May I take this opportunity of saying that I regard all such handstamps as easily forged freaks of negligible philatelic importance, in that they provide no information bearing on the stamps upon which they are struck. I feel that their collection should be discouraged.

Marcus Samuel

VIRGIN ISLANDS

EAST END AND WEST END C.D.S.

Further consideration suggests that Type 20 (for East End) was a rubber date stamp issued at the opening of this office, perhaps about 1905.

A similar instrument was also issued to West End, presumably at much the same time. The only copy which I have so far seen contained the top half of the strike, so that I cannot say whether TORTOLA VI appears with serifed capitals. The size of the ring is the same as for East End, about 29mm., and the date (13 JUL 1906) is similar to that illustrated for Type 20, but the letters of West End are slightly smaller and more closely spaced.

The instrument probably had a fairly short life, as all previous West End strikes that I have seen on Ed. VII issues have been Type 18.

Simon Goldblatt

NEWS ROUNDUP

Tony Reesby says how delighted he and his fellow members of Rugby Philatelic Society were to see Charles Loach's display last October. Tony, who collects the stamps and postal history of Jamaica certainly gets around. Just before Christmas, with three other Rugby members, he gave a display at Coventry and last October, on the other side of the country at Kings Lynn, where the Convention of the Federation of East Midlands Philatelic Societies took place, carried off a B.C.P.S.G. bronze award.

Tony's entry was a twelve sheet study of the ½d. WAR STAMP of Jamaica which, with a future "STAMPEX" in mind, he is now enlarging.

We shall look forward to meeting Tony Reesby when he can make it to the "Large Oak Room."

Dr. John Lockie's Cayman Island collection, recently auctioned by Messrs. Bridger & Kay Ltd., had some excellent realisations.

Whilst not being able to make the morning session I did however get along in the afternoon when my particular Barbados item came up.

One thing that did strike me was the very high percentage of Study Circle members amongst those attending.

It is our pleasure to record that Bob Towers, our member from Eire, was recently re-elected President of the Irish Philatelic Society.

At "STAMPA 73," Eire's second national stamp exhibition, Bob's entry of Grenada 1784-1880 was awarded one of the two gilt medals with congratulations of the jury. Bob does not give details of his exhibit, but the dates give a clue.

Most of us are familiar with the Vaudeville comedian's opening gambit, "A funny thing happened to me on the way to the theatre tonight," but not many of us can say "A funny thing happened to me on the way to the auction room today."

I recently attended an auction at a London hotel and somewhere in the hotel took a wrong turning finding myself at the entrance to a large reception. Before I could beat a hasty retreat I was grabbed by a red coated M.C. and had a brochure thrust into one hand and a Martini into the other by two delightful young ladies. Fortunately, I was able to extricate myself before things got out of hand and eventually arrived at the right place.

Those of us who attend auctions have often been offered the most welcome tea and biscuits, but I have yet to be greeted by an M.C. in full regalia and be given a Martini!

By the time you receive this Bulletin plans for our first B.W.I. auction will be almost completed. There are many excellent lots to be had, so send in your bid or, better still, come along to the sale and help to give our treasury a welcome boost.

When the energy crisis hit us just before Christmas we did, for a few days, have some doubts about producing this issue of the Bulletin. However, our printers, working under adverse conditions, have saved the day.

Although we live in troubled and uncertain times one thing is for sure, this hobby of ours will most certainly survive.

Peter Ibbotson, Secretary of The British Philatelic Association, has very kindly agreed for the viewing of lots in the forthcoming Study Circle Auction to take place at their office.

Material may be viewed on Thursday and Friday, 18th and 19th April, 1974, but only between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

The address of the B.P.A. office is: Rooms 106 and 107 (5th floor), No. 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EH.

News has just reached me of the magnificent achievement of Leonard Britnor in being awarded the "Albert H. Harris Trophy" at this year's "STAMPEX" for his book "The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies."

The winning of this trophy, a fine silver inkstand, is not only a well deserved reward for Leonard's hard work and dedication, but also reflects much credit on all those members of the Study Circle and others who gave so much valuable assistance and advice in the production of this book.

Mike

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

It was our intention to mail the new list of members with their interests and addresses, where applicable, with this issue of the Bulletin. However, due to certain considerations, it will now be sent to you in June and we trust that you will bear with us a little longer.

I have great pleasure in welcoming the following new members: Mr. Anthony Alcock who is a dealer living in Gloucestershire: Mr. Peter F. G. Johnstone who specialises in Antigua, Montserrat and St. Christopher and who lives near Derby: Mr. Ernest Peterkin who specialises in Barbados and comes from Southampton; Mr. Robert H. Robertson who specialises in Bahamas and comes from Ayrshire, Mr. Patrick Williams specialising in adhesive stamps and who lives in Birkenhead.

We offer our congratulations to the following members on their election to Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society: Mrs. H. S. Ransom, Mr. R. F. Ransom, Mr. M. Samuel, Col. F. F. Seifert and Dr. I. M. Yarrv.
Ian Chard



ARTHUR GORDON ROBINSON

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Arthur G. Robinson, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on October 20th, 1973, at the age of 68.

Mr. Robinson joined the British West Indies Study Circle in 1967. An ardent philatelist for over 40 years his main interests in the B.W.I. group were Bermuda, of which he had a specialised collection, Jamaica and Leeward Islands: in his regular correspondence with our founder and myself he revealed great keenness in the hobby and industry with his collections, despite the fact that for over nine years he had battled with serious illness. Mr. Robinson was also a member of the American Philatelic Society and the Royal Canadian Philatelic Society.

We extend the Circle's sincere sympathies to his wife Marcella who shared in her husband's great enthusiasm for philately.

Rose Saunders

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